Release of Printed Stamps

†4161. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to release those stamps again which have been printed upto the year 2000 since the independence of the country;

(b) if so, by when the same are likely to be released again; and

(c) if not, the reasons threfor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) Commemorative postage stamps are issued by the Government to commemorate certain occasions and events, observed on particular dates. These are not repeated as it would not be in order to issue the same stamps on other occasions.

Retrenchment of contract labour in Orissa Telecom. Circle

4162. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 100 of NMR and contract labourers who have been working in Orissa Telecommunication Circle have been retrenched and at present are out of job;

(b) the total number of contract labourers and NMR workers working for Orissa Telecommunication Circle;

(c) the number of workers retrenched; and

(d) whether there is work for them and whether they have got all facilities under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No contract labour or NMR were engaged in Orissa Telecom. Circle.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) Nil.

(d) Does not arise.

Financial resources for the development of Telecommunication Services

†4163. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the action plan formulated for the comprehensive development of communication services in the country during the ensuing decade; and

(b) whether any draft proposal has been formulated by Government for raising financial resources for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The New Telecom. Policy 1999 formulates the Government's policy for the development of Telecom Services in the country. The action plan is being formulated as per the Perspective Plan in Telecommunications Services (2000—2010) prepared by the Ministry of Communications. Details are as per enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(b) The Perspective Plan of Telecom Sector anticipates that fund requirement in the Sector would be Rs. 386460 crore during 2000—2010. With the policy to encourage private sector participation, it is anticipated that further financial resources will flow into this sector.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.